

PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
250 South Lena Rd., San Bernardino, CA 92415-0630
HEAD START FACT SHEET
January 17, 2006



OVERVIEW/ HISTORY

The United States Government began the Head Start program in 1965 to help overcome the problems that are frequently experienced by children within low-income families. The Preschool Services Department (PSD) has operated the Federal Head Start program since 1965 in San Bernardino County, providing comprehensive child development and family services. Research shows that during their school years and beyond, children who attend quality preschool: are less likely to be placed in special education or held back a grade; exhibit more positive classroom behaviors and perform better on standardized math and reading tests; are more likely to graduate from high school and continue their education; earn more money and are less likely to go on welfare; and, are less likely to become involved in crime.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY'S HEAD START PROGRAM

PSD serves 4,535 Head Start and State Preschool children ages 3–5 and their families at 39 locations countywide. PSD has 5 delegate agencies (Baker Valley Unified School District, Colton Joint Unified School District, City of San Bernardino Parks & Recreation Department, Needles Unified School District and Easter Seals Southern California, Inc.) that serve 487 of the total number of children. Head Start incorporates educational, health, nutritional, and psychological services in order to help children become ready to enter and succeed in school and life in general. This includes children living in poverty, foster children, those in homeless shelters and those with special needs.

FUNDING SOURCE

Head Start is funded through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. PSD also receives funding through the State Department of Education and the State's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The Head Start Program is PSD's primary funding source at 87%. The Federal Government requires that the local agency raise 20% of the total federal grant

through donations of volunteer time, services, materials and money.

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

PSD offers the following support services: Health (medical & dental), Nutrition, Mental/Psychological, Literacy (adult & child), Volunteer Opportunities, Apprenticeship Program, Disabilities Services, Education, Parent Involvement; Transition to Kindergarten, Family & Community Partnerships, Social Services and Parent Involvement.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED FY 2004 NATIONWIDE (HEAD START BUREAU)

Head Start – 905,851

Children with Disabilities served – 12.7%

22 million children served since it began in 1965

AGE OF CHILDREN

Children 3 to 5 years old are served by Head Start.

SCHOOL YEAR

Program year is from July to June.

Traditional / Track: 170 class days

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Full Day: 245 class days

Home Based: One 90-minute visit per week

ADULTS IN CLASSROOM*

Teacher (Early Childhood Credential or Permit)

Teacher Aides (with ECE units and/or Training)

Parent/Community Volunteers

*One adult for every 8 children.

PSD EMPLOYEES

PSD has 687 employees, with most providing direct services to children and families at the 39 sites throughout geographically vast San Bernardino County.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Learning Centers (4) enable families of enrolled children to access available community resources to meet their needs and Welfare Reform requirements with a focus on learning marketable skills in order to obtain meaningful employment. In addition, training and college credit classes are set up and offered to staff, including on-the-job training. A range of workshops and classes are offered regularly as follows:

- Family Literacy

- Parenting Classes
- ESL (English as a second language)
- GED
- Training for Community Volunteers

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

PSD has extended core capability for providing screening, evaluation, remediation and/or referral services to children with multiple special needs.

PARENTS IN THE PROGRAM

Parents of enrolled children are a valuable asset to the program and are encouraged to be active participants in their child's learning by volunteering in the classroom. Parents are also members of the center's class committees, may join the center committees, and a parent of this membership may be elected to represent the group as a member of the Head Start Policy Council. Membership in the Policy Council is limited to 3 years. Also, a member of the Policy Council may be elected to the Shared Governance Board, which is comprised of a member of the County Board of Supervisors and selected County Department Managers.

VOLUNTEERS

Head Start volunteers are a treasure to the program. Head Start recruits, trains, and assigns volunteers to perform a variety of duties. Volunteers are required to meet certain specifications before placement in a classroom environment.

PARTNERSHIPS

PSD welcomes partnerships with all child care and family-related agencies and businesses which are interested in serving as support systems and promoting educational achievement, social competence, health and well-being among our community's children and families.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about PSD's Head Start and State Preschool programs, you may visit our website: <http://www.sbcounty.gov> or call (909) 387-2363 Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the nearest Head Start Center.

Mission: We provide a foundation for success for each child by giving them the highest quality child development and family support services.

Communications/Adm/FACTS/1/13/2006/cg